(c) by when the repair work will be undertaken in such quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No complaints are pending.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Pollution in cities due to increase in population

†3081. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution is increasing in most of cities of the country due to increase in the population;

(b) whether Government have formulated any effective plan or programme to tackle this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Pollution levels exhibit a rising trend in metropolitan towns. This is due to increase in economic activities including industries and transportation, accompanied by growth in population. However a decreasing trend has been observed recently in case of National Capital Delhi due to various pollution control measures taken by the Government. The following steps have been initiated to control pollution in the metropolitan towns:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipments in a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iii) A scheme under the World Bank for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small scale industrial units had been taken up. 89 CETPs have been approved which are at various stages of development.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipments and shifting of industries from congested areas.

(v) Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of developmental projects.

(vi) Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for setting up of industries.

(vii) Gross, emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport in various urban areas.

(viii) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(ix) CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(x) All the stone crushers have been closed down in Delhi.

(xi) All the Hot Mix Plants and brick kilns have been closed down in Delhi.

(xii) A number of hazardous and polluting industries have been closed down in Delhi.

(xiii) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented.

(xiv) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

(xv) Public awareness campaigns have been launched to educated the people about the ill effects of pollution.

(d) Does not arise.